



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Arizona Strip Field Office
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, Utah 84790
www.az.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
(A010) 6740

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Kanab Creek Riparian Restoration Project (DOI-BLM-AZ-A010-2015-0005-EA)

Dear Interested Party:

Please be advised that an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared (DOI-BLM-AZ-A010-2015-0005-EA) for the proposed Kanab Creek Riparian Restoration Project. This EA is a public document, and is available for your review and comment.

The proposed action analyzed in the EA is to remove tamarisk and Russian olive at various sites along a 21.6-mile stretch of Kanab Creek from the Kaibab-Paiute Reservation/BLM boundary in the north to the confluence with Snake Gulch in the south, and possibly along short sections of side drainages as deemed necessary. One or more of the following methods would be used for removal, depending on the age of individual stems, the density of stands, and the degree of intermingling with native vegetation.

Hand-pulling: Personnel could hand pull smaller shrubs and stems from the ground. Hand tools, including picks, pulaskis, and shovels may be used to loosen the soil surrounding the larger plants and then the entire root system would be removed.

Basal-bark: This treatment would primarily be used on immature trees under one year in age and up to 3 meters tall. BLM, volunteers, or private contractor employees, certified in herbicide application by the State of Arizona, and under the supervision of a person certified by BLM's course 9000-1 would apply Triclopyr - Garlon 3a (near water) or Garlon 4 (away from water on terraces) - using hand-applicators to the base of the tree at manufacturer-recommended rates.

Cut-stump: This treatment would primarily be used on mature stems. Shrubs and trees along the banks and on the terraces would be cut or lopped at or near ground level and herbicide would be applied within a few minutes of cutting. Crews would use chainsaws, hand saws and/or loppers. BLM, volunteers, or private contractor employees, certified in herbicide application by the State of Arizona, under the supervision of a person certified by BLM's course 9000-1 would apply Triclopyr - Garlon 3a or Garlon 4 (depending on distance from water) - using hand-applicators to the cut stems at manufacturer-recommended rates.

The proposed action is a project to reduce the prevalence of tamarisk and Russian olive from the Kanab Creek corridor and tributaries, and restore native riparian communities. The proposed action would enable the BLM to work within an adaptive management framework to conduct small-scale removals of tamarisk and Russian olive along Kanab Creek and adjacent drainages, to monitor the success of natural re-establishment of vegetation in areas formerly dominated by non-natives with native species, and to

evaluate the success of the project as a whole to inform proposals for similar removal projects in the future.

Under the no action alternative, tamarisk and Russian olive would not be treated and no comprehensive non-native species control would occur. The BLM would continue to monitor vegetation conditions in the project area, but no effort to eradicate or control the spread of tamarisk or Russian olive in Kanab Creek and its tributaries on public land would occur.

This proposed action is in conformance with the Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan approved on January 29, 2008.

Copies of the EA are available upon request from, and written comments may be submitted to:

Shawn Langston
BLM Arizona Strip Field Office
345 East Riverside Dr.
St. George, UT 84790
Telephone: 435-688-3239
Email: slangston@blm.gov

This EA is also posted on the Arizona Strip Field Office's web home page at:
http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/arizona_strip_field.html.

The public review and comment period for this EA will extend for 30 days, from July 8, 2015 to August 7, 2015. All written comments must be received by close of business on August 7, 2015. The BLM encourages and welcomes all public comments. This will also ensure that you are on our mailing list for notification of actions connected with this proposed project.

By law, the names and addresses of those commenting are available for public review during regular business hours. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All comments from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,

Lorraine M. Christian
Lorraine M. Christian
Arizona Strip Field Office Manager